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The Hongkong Telegraph

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March 26, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 64 2 p.m. 55
Humidity 66 71

March 26, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 55 2 p.m. 53
Humidity 78 90

WEATHER FORECAST
OVERCAST.
Barometer 29.95.

7901 日四十月二

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1918.

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE GRIM STRUGGLE IN FRANCE.

ENEMY DRIVEN BACK WITH GREAT LOSS.

GERMAN STORY OF CAPTURES DESCRIBED AS ABSURD.

London, March 25.
London is talking and thinking of nothing but the battle. Crowds yesterday waited for special editions containing Sir Douglas Haig's communiqué and Reuter's special wires. The feeling is one of undiminished confidence in the Army. There was momentary depression consequent upon the phrase in Sir Douglas Haig's Saturday morning's communiqué that the defensive system west of St. Quentin had been broken through, but the later communiqués were more confident, showing that the Army was holding and that there were no signs of disorganisation and no news that any division had been (or) those heroic rearguard posts, enabling masses of infantry and artillery to be steadily withdrawn. On the contrary, all accounts suggest that the enemy is bleeding copiously. The message came through in the form given. There are evidently some words missing from the text of the telegram—Ed. H.K.T.]

Experts are unanimously optimistic in their comments. The Daily Chronicle says that, assuming the German losses are at least 150,000, they have sustained a reverse, for they have not obtained a strategical success directly conducing to a decision, whilst they have lost eight or ten per cent. of their effectiveness, without similarly lowering the Allies' efficiency. This is a matter of the greatest importance to him at the present moment, when the man-power pendulum is swinging in favour of the Allies. No weakness in the Anglo-French junction has yet been disclosed, and the task before the enemy in the next phase of the battle is more formidable than that yet accomplished.

British Doggedness.

London, March 25.
The doggedness of the British defence is illustrated by incidents described by correspondents. English advanced troops surrounded at Vendeville held out from early on Thursday morning until four o'clock on Friday afternoon. The open country south of St. Quentin contained a number of strong redoubts equipped with machine-guns, and these were enveloped by the advancing hordes, but resisted till nightfall when they surrendered or were stormed. The British and the London Regiment particularly distinguished themselves in two such episodes. In one case on Saturday, twelve machine-guns held a ridge against overwhelming masses long after the infantry on both sides had been forced back. There was particularly sanguinary fighting in the village of Morv, where a small body of the British were cut off and fought all night till their comrades, repeatedly counter-attacking, rescued the remnant at the point of the bayonet on Saturday morning. The orderly activity in the rear shows that the spirit of the troops is in no wise shaken by the vast readjustment of the front.

German Claims of Prisoners Absurd.

London, March 25.
Mr. Perry Robinson, wiring from France, says that instead of making a break which the enemy anticipated, our line is firm and continuous before him everywhere, and so far from having any notion of being beaten, the morale of our men remains high and magnificent. The German gains are large, but we know that they counted on getting by this time from three to five times further than they have actually got. The German claims of prisoners are absurd. Instead of open warfare, the Germans have before them armies unbroken and full of heart and spirit. As our resistance stiffens, their artillery firing gets less formidable.

Enemy Aiming at Channel Ports.

London, March 25.
The Times says it is extremely significant that the enemy appears to have appointed a whole series of new Generals to conduct the great offensive. It was General von Hueter, who took Riga in September, that broke the British defences west of St. Quentin, with the resultant retirement of the whole British line between the Scarpe and the Oise.

Broadly speaking, all our forces between Arras and Peronne are moving back in the direction of the old line we held at the beginning of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The ultimate objective of the German advance is clearly Amiens, whose fall might enable the enemy to threaten our northern line and strike at the Channel ports and endanger Paris. But the Germans have not broken through our armies, and positions are available which are believed strong enough to check a further advance, however formidable. The real test is still to come.

The Paris Bombardment.

London, March 25.
There is much speculation as to the nature of the gun which is bombarding Paris. French experts estimate that the highest point of the trajectory is at twenty-three miles. The damage done is insignificant as compared with Gotha bombs.

The ex Premier, M. Painleve, considers that the Germans have invented a process of trebling the speed of a projectile with a view to causing a moral effect, as shells of such velocity cannot have a powerful material effect.

It is expected in London that the gun may be tried against the shores of England.

Our Airmen Still Busy.

London, March 25.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation, says:—Our night-fliers all night bombed hostile concentrations, dumps and large guns. Over fourteen tons of bombs were dropped, of which two and a half tons were on Bruges docks. All the machines returned. We also dropped ten heavy bombs on important railway bridges and works at Kers, south of Tervin. Eight of these bombs burst among the railway works. Nearly two tons were dropped at a low altitude on an aerodrome south of Metz. Six bombs burst among the hangars and set fire to bits. All the machines returned. Our aeroplanes yesterday made a most successful raid on factories at Mannheim. Nearly a ton and a half of bombs were dropped. Bombs were seen on a soda factory, the railway and docks.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE GRIM STRUGGLE IN FRANCE.

A Struggle for Bapaume.

London, March 25.
A German wireless official message says:—A gigantic struggle is still proceeding for Bapaume. The battle is progressing on the Transloy-Cambes-Maurepas line. We crossed the Somme at many points between Peronne and Ham. We are progressing between the Somme and the Oise and have captured Chauby. The booty is enormous. The English in retreating are burning towns and villages. We bombarded Paris with long-distance guns.

Another Expert's Views.

London, March 25.
Colonel Repington, writing in the Morning Post, says the number of prisoners claimed by the Germans is far inferior to what supposedly have been left wounded on the field. The number of guns claimed is only a fraction of the divisional artillery supporting the first lines. Only one of our Armies appears to have been fully engaged, while the direction of the enemy attack was fully exposed. The battle will be resumed with larger means on our side without the undue weakening of others which may be attacked. Consequently, we are entitled to regard the events with calm confidence.

German Generals Decorated.

London, March 25.
According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, a message from Berlin says that the Kaiser, at Main Headquarters on March 24, conferred upon Marshal von Hindenburg the Iron Cross with gold rays, which, up to the present, had only been conferred upon Prince Blucher and General von Ludendorff. He also conferred the Grand Cross of the Iron Cross on Departmental Chiefs at Headquarters, Orléans etc. on the rest of the Departmental Chiefs, together with the Kaiser's portrait with his signature, the date of battle given being March 21 to March 23.

Enemy Repulsed with Great Losses.

London, March 25.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The battle continues with great violence on the whole front. We heavily repulsed powerful attacks yesterday afternoon and last evening to the north of Bapaume. The Germans at only one point reached the trenches, from which they were immediately thrown out. Our fire stopped attacks elsewhere before our positions, the enemy being driven back with great loss. Fresh hostile attacks developed during the night and this morning in this neighbourhood and also south of Bapaume. Our counter-attacks to the south of Peronne drove back enemy parties who had crossed the river between Licourt and Brie.

THE SIBERIAN SITUATION.

Japan and the Question of Intervention.

London, March 25.
The Daily Mail learns from Tokyo that in the House of Peers, Count Terauchi, replying to an interpellation, said that the Government had not considered the question of intervention in Siberia because Japan was not menaced by the presence in Siberia of numerous prisoners of war, whose power was negligible.

Another Statement.

London, March 25.
The Times' correspondent at Tokyo says that, despite political disruption, which is likely to reach a climax in the resignation of the Cabinet, there is indisputable evidence that Japan is preparing to enter Siberia after a declaration of her motives and objects to the Russian local authorities. The Times' correspondent at Peking says that Colonel Semionoff's movement against the Bolsheviks is receiving substantial support.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

Enemy Offensive Expected Soon.

London, March 25.
Mr. Ward Price, writing from the Italian Headquarters, says that a great enemy offensive in the Trentino is expected in two or three weeks, when the snow has cleared from the mountains. Besides powerful preparations in the rear, the Austrians at the front are trying to sap the Italian spirit by distributing mendacious literature.

U. S. WAR SECRETARY IN LONDON.

London, March 25.
Mr. Baker, the American War Secretary, has arrived in London.

NAVAL CHANGES.

London, March 25.
Vice Admiral Sir Richard Peirse has been promoted Admiral in succession to Admiral Sir Edward Braddock, who has retired at his own request in order to facilitate the promotion of younger officers.

ENEMY'S AIRCRAFT LOSS.

London, March 25.
A French official statement says:—From February 15 to March 15, fifty-two enemy aeroplanes were brought down or set on fire, while fifty others were disabled. We lost twenty-nine machines.

AIRSHIP PASSES OVER CRETE.

London, March 25.
The Greek War Ministry announces that on the evening of the 21st instant, an airship appeared over Crete, travelling northward.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RECENT NAVAL ACTION.

Details of the "Scrap" off Dunkirk.

London, March 25.
An eye-witness's narrative of the destroyer action at Dunkirk on the 21st instant states that the British destroyers Botha and Morris and the French destroyers Muhl, Magon and Bouchier were patrolling the Channel at dawn when they heard firing northwards, the enemy in a futile manner bombarding deserted French watering places.

The Allied craft, the Botha leading, made full speed towards the fishes, firing star shells, which caused the raiders to disappear. The Allies then searched to the north-west, still using star shells, and presently they sighted the shadowy outline of an enemy division sneaking off in the darkness and mist. They immediately fired heavily and a running fight ensued.

The Morris, emerging from the enemy smoke-screen, cut off and torpedoed a large destroyer, which blew up and sank.

The Botha's main steamship was severed by a shell, but she fired both torpedoes at the leading boats and, putting over her helm, rammed and cut in half the fourth enemy boat. The Botha swung round and tried to ram the next astern, which dodged but was pounded to pieces by the French destroyers.

The Morris meanwhile relinquished the pursuit in the smoke and mist and took the Botha in tow.

French destroyers picked up survivors, and these stated that the raiders numbered eighteen, that they were unhesitatingly attacked and mauled by five Anglo-French destroyers.

The remaining fifteen on making home towards Ostend were bombed and scattered by seaplanes, which afterwards fought a squadron of enemy seaplanes, telling four.

The troubles of the raiders were not ended at Ostend, for a sinister unseen thing, travelling at an incredible speed, rushed in a cloud of spray across the face of the water, apparently from nowhere. A torpedo struck the stern of a German destroyer, and, scampering through a cloud of spray, the British submarine which launched the projectile vanished unscathed amid a hail of bullets.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE GREAT BATTLE IN FRANCE.

German Story of Progress.

London, March 24.
A wireless German official message states: In our victory near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and Laferre, the English third and fourth armies and portions of the Franco-American reserves were beaten and between Peronne and Ham and at Chauny were repulsed with the heaviest losses.

General Von Buelow stormed Monchy heights and advanced beyond Wancourt. General Henin is now engaged in a fight north-westward of Bapaume for the third enemy position. Strong English counter-attacks were repulsed. General Von der Marwitz, following on the heels of the vanquished enemy, advanced on Friday night as far as the third enemy position in the Equancourt, Nurl, Templeux, Fosse-Bernes line. He renewedly attacked the enemy yesterday morning, defeating him despite the desperate defence and continual counter-attacks, and made a junction with von Buelow's left wing. We crossed the Tortill sector and are now fighting around Bonchaynes. Von Huber, having pierced the third enemy position on Friday, some divisions traversed Peronne and advanced southward to the Somme. Ham fell after a desperate fight. English reserves thrown in against us sustained sanguinary losses. We crossed the Crozat Canal, Anglo-French and American regiments brought up to counter-attack were thrown back on Chauny and south-westward.

A Titanic Struggle.

London, March 24.
Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters writes: The enemy is now throwing his last ounce of weight and resource into the struggle. Upon the course of the immediate future hangs the issue of the war. A captured airman stated "The offensive is the result of desperation. We must have peace quickly now. Our troops throughout March 23 were very hard pressed by the English enrolling legions, through whose weary ranks fresh divisions are continually pouring in."

The magnificent defence which the slowly retreating British line has thus far made assuredly constitutes one of the greatest epics of history. We find in high quarters to-day unbroken serenity, confidence and satisfaction with the general position. During the afternoon of March 23rd, in the region of Ham things temporarily looked ugly when the enemy outflanked us and hurried up cavalry in order to extend the enveloping movement; but a vigorous counter-attack drove back the enemy and restored the positions. When reading German claims remember the extent of the battle front and do not forget the enemy's concentration of guns, which is the greatest ever known. Recollect the awful hellacomb marking the wake of his advance. The French troops on our right, after a lengthy rest, are at the top of their dashing moral.

Yesterday there was Homeric fighting in the centre of the battle front wherein our machine-gunners a number of times had to cease from sheer exhaustion from killing. Never have the British arms so superbly met such an overwhelming test, including the South African contingent and the Newfoundland Battalion, both of whom have been fighting magnificently. The fourth day of the offensive did not bring any surprise, although the enemy long range guns are doing their utmost day and night.

Between Lagnicourt and Hermies the British were confronted by 9 or 10 divisions and 700 guns. The preliminary bombardment on the whole front on the first day was the heaviest ever experienced and ranged to exceptional depth. Probably owing to the German gunning not being so accurate, as ours, before the infantry advanced the barrage lifted a considerable distance as the Germans won't hug a barrage as do the British. Otherwise the advance was similar to our attacks, except the enemy waves were far denser. Since the preliminary bombardment the enemy's artillery has shown a tendency to decrease.

The situation at present appears to be that we are holding the enemy on virtually the whole front, although he is pressing attacks very heavily. For example, one village was taken by the Germans, retaken by us, retaken by the Germans and yet again re-captured by the British. At present it is not definitely known to be occupied by either side. There are wide stretches of No Man's Land with pockets of the enemy interesting our posts.

(Continued on page 6.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The opinions expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the "Hongkong Telegraph."]

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

[To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph."]
Sir,—I was surprised to read in last evening's issue of your paper Mr. Clarkson Dye's letter, addressed to Dr. J. T. C. Johnson, wherein it is stated that I joined the writer in the views and suggestions expressed by him. Mr. Dye must have misunderstood me when he connected my name with his letter. He did see me about the epidemic, but I do not remember having expressed any opinion beyond saying that I saw no objection to the publication of notices in Chinese advising people to consult a doctor when they are conscious of experiencing any of the symptoms of the disease. Mr. Dye did not mention to me the suggestions as outlined in his letter; nor do I agree with them. Yours etc.

TANG YAT-CHUA.
Hongkong, March 26, 1918.

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

European Charged This Morning.

At the Police Court this morning, before Mr. A. Dyer Ball, Frank Valentin Collins was charged with obtaining by false pretences board and lodgings to the extent of \$168.80, from December 20 to January 12, 1918, at the King Edward Hotel. Sergeant Blackman stated that there were several witnesses whom he would have to subpoena, but he did not think the case would last very long. His Worship asked if defendant could find bail if an amount were fixed, and defendant replied that he was only a seafaring man out of a job, and he had no money for either bail or for a solicitor. The case was adjourned, defendant being remanded in Police Custody.

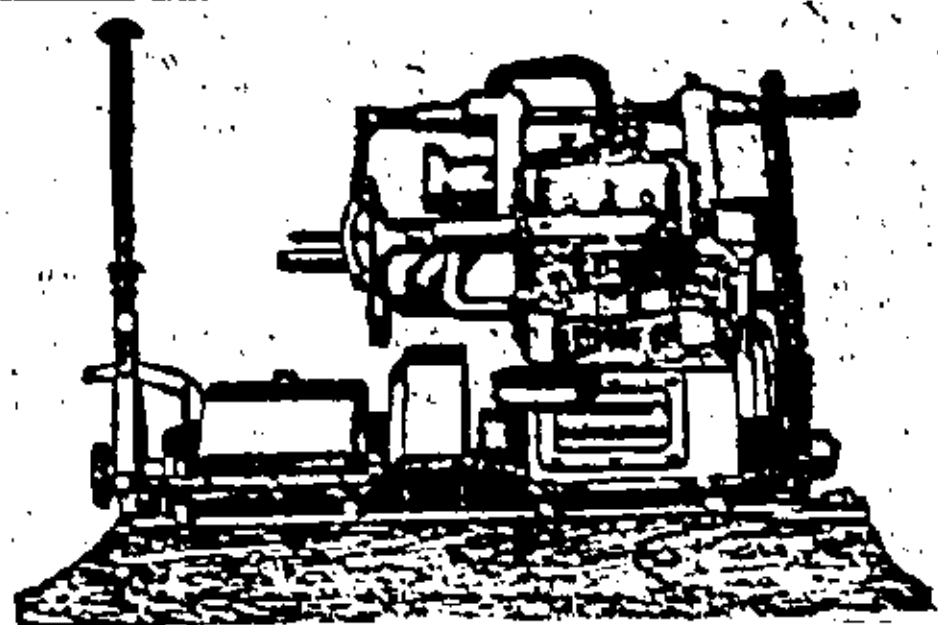
POLICE RESERVE ORDERS.

Orders issued to-day by Mr. F. C. Jenkin, O.B.E., state:—
Commendation.
P.O. 217 Leung Shu Man is commended by the O.S.P. for pluck exhibited whilst on duty in a recent street robbery case.
Summer Uniform.
Men who have not yet passed for summer uniform must at once make written application to their respective Equipment Officers for same.
Search Supervisors.
Reference previous Orders, the whole of No. 1 Platoon (except Water Police) will attend at Headquarters on Thursday, 28th instant, at 5.30 p.m.
Appointments.
The Hon O.S.P. approves the following:—
P.O. 428 Eldridge, ex Regular Police, to be Inspector on the Staff.
P.O. 456 Brook, ex Regular Police, to be Crown Sargt. on the Staff.
P.O. 472 Ballock, Sargt. H. K. D. C., to be Sergeant.
P.O. 431 Thomas, Sargt. H. K. D. C., to be Sergeant.
All the above will do duty with the Search Supervising Squad.
Strength.
Re-joined.—E. O. 482 Gilling, to No. 1 Platoon.

DONT FORGET.

TO-DAY:
Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.
TO-MORROW:
Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

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" " 20	.75
Superfine " 100	2.40
" " 50	1.20

SOLE AGENTS—

THE HONGKONG CIGAR STORE CO., LD.
HOTEL MANSIONS.

GENERAL NEWS.

Reservoir for Nagasaki.
The Nagasaki Municipal authorities are at last considering the question of constructing a new reservoir. The Nagasaki Press, in referring to the present water supply, says that it is possible that nearly four months will elapse before the restriction on the supply to consumers can be removed.

A Bishop's Scheme.
The Bishop of Worcester, addressing a meeting at Nineston in support of the fund for the provision of spiritual aid for the munition areas in his diocese, mentioned that the design was to have five chaplains and 20 ladies to do the work. He added that it was estimated that there were 80,000 fresh people at "Obesity," and he asked for £10,000 in aid of the scheme.

Firm's Gift of a Tank.
Major-General Ellice, Commander of the Tanks on the Western front, who was in charge of their attack at Cambrai, addressed the employees of the Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon, and Finance Company, Birmingham, recently after which it was decided that the workmen, together with the management of the company, should purchase a Tank in the name of the firm, and present it to the Army for use in France.

Japanese Cooper's on Strike.
Upwards of 1,500 cooper's in Mikage, Naniwa, and other places, have demanded an increase of their wages by 20 per cent. The employers, who recently agreed to an increase of 30 per cent, refused to comply with this fresh demand. Thereupon many of the workmen struck work. Mr. Shiaka, representative of the Sake and Dealers' Guild, recently visited the Nishinomiya Police Station and asked the Superintendent to take steps to check the strike.

U. S. Women's Pay Increased.
On motion of Mr. Frank L. Dowling, Borough President of Manhattan, the Board of Estimate has increased the pay of 361 women employed as cleaners in the public buildings of the city from \$408 to \$418 per annum. The new rate is equivalent to an increase of a trifle more than \$2 per week. This is the first material increase these women have had for many years. More than half of the total of 361 are employed under Mr. Dowling. The remainder are employed in the Departments of Fire, Health, and Charities.

Civilisation's Debt to France.
The Anglo-French Society, of which Lord Bunsen is president, has sent to the French nation, through the President of the Republic, a message of fraternal greeting. "It says: 'That the year 1918 may see the victory of our Allied armies, the restoration to France of her lost provinces, the liberation of her invaded territory, and the complete overthrow and punishment of the military power which has sought to place Europe in bondage, is the prayer of all members of the society. Confident that those hopes will be realized, we will spare no effort to make known in this country the debt which all civilization owes to France for the sacrifices she has made in withstanding the savage carnage of our common enemy.'"

1,000 Tons of Berries.
Children of 2,500 schools, who get this autumn to pick 1,000 tons of blackberries to make jam for the Army, have brought about a great saving, not only of labour, but of money. The work was organised at the request of the Food Production Department by Mr. Arthur Bryant. His returns show that 70 tons were picked in Buckinghamshire, 80 tons in Gloucestershire, and 41 tons each in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. The other counties being equally good. The children have supplied to jam works, after expending in weighing, carting, sorting, and boxing, brought blackberries at less than \$17 a ton, and in one country where berries were free, and part of the berries picked were delivered into the jam factory at less than \$10 a ton. Taking Bucks with its 70 tons at \$17 a ton, we estimate the whole sale price of 200 tons at a net saving of \$2,800.

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The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1918.

BATTLE FACTORS.

If there is one factor more than another which is operating to the enemy's advantage in the present great offensive, on which he has staked his all, it is that provided by the immense masses of troops which he has at his command. Until a very brief time ago, the Allies were in the happy position of enjoying numerical superiority, but the final forcing of peace on Russia enabled the enemy to transport numberless Divisions to the Western theatre of the war, with the result, we cannot now doubt, that the balance is on the side of the Germans. It is this circumstance that has enabled the Huns to conceive and carry into effect their deadly onslaught against the British positions. The Germans have gathered up all their strength for this great concentrated thrust, and it has well been observed that if they fail now, when they have advantages which they will never again be able to command, they will have to settle down to face the absolute certainty of ultimate defeat.

The probability of the present German tactics being put into practice has long been foreseen, as also has the possibility of the Allied line in the West being bent. In the last week of the year 1917, the American War Secretary stated, in one of his weekly reviews, that, no matter what superiority in men and guns the enemy might for the time being be able to bring to bear in the West, and even admitting the eventual modification of the Allied line in his favour, he knew that his effort would result in merely local successes, which could have no determining influence on the final outcome of the war. And in this connection, Mr. Baker took occasion to point out the importance of building up America's man power, remarking: "We are the freshest in the struggle; we have a reserve of man-power and a reserve of mechanical power, and our armies constitute the reserve of victory." There can be no doubt that the question of the eventual exercise of America's full pressure is a matter which has had much to do with the launch of the German offensive at the present time. The German High Command fully realised that the only possible moment for such a venture was in the interval between Russia's defection and the arrival of the great American Army. The moment has thus been well chosen, but we need not at that account despair of the result.

In a struggle like the present it is big battalions that count. The Germans are showing us that, but, happily, the battle has not yet ended. It has really only begun. Before it is finished we may and probably shall, see a very different complexion put on the situation. The Sunday Times takes quite a sound line when it observes that, with time on our side and fewer troops to meet, our Generals may reasonably count on holding enough reserves to deal a crushing counter-stroke when Hindenburg has shattered his last legion against the impregnable British wall. That is a development which may very well come about, and we may be certain that the British High Command has an eye to some such turn of events. Well-directed and simultaneously delivered counter-offensives can turn the blackest situation into a brilliant victory, and, if it comes to strategy, there is no doubt which of the rival Commands will show to the better advantage. At any rate, the British Army is now on its trial. It is facing a terrible ordeal in a truly magnificent spirit, and it has the hopes and prayers of thousands of Britishers throughout the Empire that it will strike a great blow for the cause of liberty and freedom.

A Great Imperial Patriot.

Once again the notorious fire-eater General Hertzog, who is still languishing in the cold shades of Opposition in the South African Union Parliament, has given General Botha an opportunity of showing how great a patriot and pillar of our Empire we have in him. General Hertzog, ever "agin the Government," wants to know South Africa's attitude regarding the Imperial Parliament's co-operation with our Allies in requisitioning Dutch ships. Of course, South Africa's distinguished Premier, without condescending to express any views on the action, which he and other eminent Imperialists in South Africa of Dutch descent might hold on this thorny question, merely informed General Hertzog that "South Africa as a part of the Empire had to do its duty in helping to see the war through," adding, amidst cheers, that "he certainly would not do anything to help Germany." It is the happy possession of such men as General Botha and General Smuts, who, having realised for what the British Empire stands, that has enabled the Empire to bring before the world an attitude of Imperial unity and strength which even in these critical days we can say will ultimately be found to be invincible.

A Much Needed Reform.

The present is perhaps not the most opportune time for calling attention to the many little blemishes that on all hands it is admitted have long murred the usefulness of the British Consular Service in China. Reform is in the air everywhere, and it is now well-known that in the great economic changes that are certain to take place even the most conservative of our institutions will have to undergo very considerable modifications. Hongkong, like other Crown Colonies, is to have its Commercial Attaché permanently stationed in the Colony, and that this and other similar appointments have been made with a view strictly to the usefulness of the holder of the post may be taken for granted. The day has passed for British commercial men on the China Coast or anywhere else to tolerate the incompetence which, as a writer in the *Empire News* bluntly points out, is much too frequently in evidence in British Consular offices. Incompetence that is doubly objectionable by being almost invariably accompanied by an attitude of "superiority" which certain Consular officials are wont to assume when condescending to have any dealings with commercial men. We are glad to be able to say that in our own experience in China we have met with several striking examples quite contrary to those pointed out by the writer in the *Empire News*, for gradually during the past decade the illuminating fact has penetrated into some of our Consular offices that British Consular officials are the servants and not the masters of British commercial men abroad.

Sir John Anderson.

From the *Morning Post* we learn of the death of Sir John Anderson, Governor of Ceylon and formerly Governor of the Straits Settlements. For a considerable time past—in fact, almost since his appointment in 1916 to the Governorship of Ceylon—Sir John had been more or less seriously ill and for some months there had been little hope entertained of his recovery. Sir John mightily butted a great Imperialist, as practically his whole official career was spent in the service of the Colonial Office, which he entered in 1870. In 1904 and until 1911 he was Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States. To these duties was added the High Commissioner of the States of Brunei from 1906 till 1911, in which year, after most successful administration of the Colonies mentioned, he returned to the Colonial Office as Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies—a position he held until his appointment to the Governorship of Ceylon. Sir John Anderson was unquestionably a great pillar of the British Empire, and the splendid work that he performed entitles him to a high position in the ranks of great Colonial Administrators.

DAY BY DAY.

GASHED WITH HONOURABLE SCARS
LOW IN GLORY'S LAP THEY LIE;
THOUGHT THEY FELL, THEY FELL
LIKE STARS
STREAMING SPLENDOR
THROUGH THE SKY.—Montgomery.

To-morrow's Anniversary.
To-morrow is the 29th anniversary of the death of John Bright.

The Dollar.
The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3s. 1½d.

Alice Memorial Hospital.
The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd., \$250; Butterfield and Swire, \$100; Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, \$100; Jardine Matheson and Co., \$100.

Heavy Ball.

Before Mr. A. Dyer Ball, at the Police Court this morning, a Chinese woman was charged with the larceny of \$955, and, secondly, with obtaining \$955 by false pretences. Mr. Shenton and Mr. F. X. D'Almeida appeared for defendant and Mr. B. Johnson was present for the prosecution. The case will be remembered as the one in which it is alleged, defendant, with a man, victimised two women, taking money from them and promising to give in return thirteen large pearls. The case was adjourned, bail being fixed in the sum of \$1,500.

A Fishing Boat Incident.

The master of a fishing boat has reported to the Police that in the early hours of this morning, while on his boat with his wife and two daughters, lying at anchor in Ma Liu Ho Bay, a boat containing five men rowed towards him. He challenged them, but they made no reply and boarded his boat. He shouted out "Save life," whereupon one of the men, armed with a chopper, cut him twice on the head seriously. His wife also called out for help and she was wounded too, with the same instrument. The robbers ransacked the boat and took away with them a box containing money and clothing to the value of \$39.80.

CHARITY CONCERT.

Enjoyable Programme at the City Hall.

The fund for the orphans of the Portuguese victims who perished in the Racecourse disaster should very materially benefit as a result of the most enjoyable concert given in the Chamber of Commerce Room at the City Hall last night by Professor Danenberg's pupils, assisted by a number of other talented artists. The programme was one of all-round merit and by reason of its admirable variety gave great delight to all present. There was an extremely large audience, which included His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry May, K.C.M.G.) and the Consul for Portugal (Mr. Souza).

Many of the items in the programme were identical to those given at the recent concert by Professor Danenberg's pupils, each and all of whom performed in a manner which supplied eloquent proof of the pains which had been taken in their training. Some of the more advanced pianists showed talent of marked merit. The pupils taking part were Miss Sarah Shaw, Miss Joyce Thornhill, Miss Lilian Chenailloy, Miss Florence Simmons, Miss Connie Martin, Miss Elsa Alves, Miss Elfrida Osmond, Miss May Wco, Miss Nolan, Master Nolan, Messrs. W. and A. Mackenzie and Mr. B. Barnassoco. In addition to these, Mrs. Balcan contributed a most delightful violin solo, while songs were also sung most pleasingly by Mrs. Stevens and Mr. Mariel. A feature of the programme was the trio for violin, piano and cello by Professor Papini, Professor Danenberg and Mr. Pamiel. This was beautifully played and proved one of the most attractive items of the evening. The concert was in every way a success, and Professor Danenberg is to be commended for having arranged such an enjoyable evening in aid of such a worthy cause.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

Interesting Matters Discussed at Annual Meeting.

Mr. S. H. Dodwell presided at the annual meeting of the Royal Hongkong Golf Club, held last night in the Board Room at Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company's offices. There was a very large attendance of members.

The Racecourse Disaster.

After the Hon. Secretary (Mr. John Bentley) had read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman made a feeling reference to the Racecourse disaster and moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting desires to record its sincere sympathy with the relatives and friends of all those who perished or were injured in the awful catastrophe at Happy Valley on the 26th February."

Mr. E. J. Grist seconded and the motion was carried by those present standing in silence.

The Chairman's Speech.

The Chairman then said:—Gentlemen, The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands some days I will, with your permission, take them as read. I think you will all consider that we have come through a somewhat critical year satisfactorily. As mentioned in the report there were at the end of the year 592 Resident members and 39 Subscribers. The increase in subscriptions, some \$3,000 is larger in proportion as the whole of 1917 benefited by the increased subscription. Wages and maintenance at Happy Valley and Deepwater Bay are much about the same, but the additions to the Deepwater Bay Club House cost us somewhat more than was anticipated and another improvement to further enlarge the dressing rooms has been made possible by a generous donation from Mr. Henry Humphreys, of \$729 which we estimate will cover nearly half the extra outlay. This sum together with the item of \$120 account Xmas Box I regret to say, through an oversight appeared in the accounts before you as credited to profit and loss account. In explanation I would say that the Xmas Box collection proved sufficient for both the European and Chinese Staff. The \$120 represents the proportion allotted to the Chinese Staff, which was not paid until China new year to the Chinese staff, instead of making the usual whip round. There was certainly never any intention on the part of the Committee to accept contributions from members for specific purposes and then swell the profit and loss account with them. I apologise that the matter was not noticed before the accounts were circulated but as it is, I suggest that we leave the items where they are on the understanding that similar amounts be disbursed this year for the purposes for which they were donated. The New Year cashaws have as I mentioned already been given.

The upkeep of the Fanling course has been attended by some special difficulty owing to the exceptionally dry season, and the consequent shortage of water; there was not enough to make any impression on the greens during the time they most required it. Apart from the large quantity that would have been required for this purpose however, the supply for all other purposes held out satisfactorily, but the increase of the supply is a question that must be borne in mind. A number of alterations in the plan of the course have been made which the Committee hope will meet with the approval of the Club. The whole of the Fairway was loppedress with good earth by the Botanical and Forestry Department of the Government under the supervision of Mr. W. J. Tatcher, to whom the club is much indebted for his work in this matter, and for his advice and assistance in all things connected with the turfing and beautifying of the Course, while in addition he has carried out the large planting programme of the Government on the hills that surround it. (Applause).

And now gentlemen, we come to the loss of our old Club House at Happy Valley. The terrible tragedy which led to its destruction has overshadowed everything else, but I am sure there are none among us here to-day who do not regard its loss with feelings of real regret. Thanks to the fair—

—I might even say liberal—treatment accorded to us by the Insurance Companies concerned the financial aspect is satisfactory, but that will not bring back an old friend which has been so closely associated with the golfing careers of the majority of us. As regards temporary accommodation for the immediate future, the Jockey Club have come to our assistance, and I desire to tender them our sincerest thanks for their hospitality and kindness in placing a part of their buildings at our disposal. In this connection I would like to impress upon members the absolute necessity of carrying out the requests we have made, which have been advertised and posted up in a prominent position, and more particularly to the last request, which reads:—"When going and returning from the Golf Course members are to only use the recognised path, and must not cross the race course or climb the rails at other points." Failure to observe these requests will not only jeopardise the loan of the accommodation, but is I am sure you will agree, a distinct abuse of the hospitality of the Jockey Club. (Applause).

As to future arrangements for rebuilding, we have no option but to await developments but the opinion of the outgoing Committee is that whatever building is eventually erected to replace Happy Valley Club House it should not be an elaborate one, and that our first consideration should be given to improvements in the accommodation at Fanling. I regret to say that our Championship records and a great many old books perished in the fire, although our club was saved. The only means we have of tracing our Champions and Captain's cup winners back to the early days of the club is to search the records in our local papers, and volunteers are wanted for this work. If there are none forthcoming, I think in the natural order of things the duty devolves upon the most recent Champion. At any rate if we leave it to him we can safely rely upon it being done—by somebody else.—(Laughter and applause).

During the year the Club have lost the active services of one whose sterling work during many years cannot be exaggerated. I refer to Mr. Cumming. Until one actually takes on the duties it is impossible to realise the amount of work attaching to the post of Honorary Secretary of this Club. It requires a very great deal of unselfishness, and if you are a keen golfer, as he is you have to give up a good share of your golfing time to looking after the interests of the members. Very few of us care to do that, and I think it should make us all the more appreciative when we come across a man who is willing. Later on during the meeting I am going to propose to you that we make Mr. Cumming a life member of the Club in recognition of his services to us. (Applause). We are very fortunate in finding so worthy a successor in Mr. Bentley, to whom our thanks are due for stepping into the breach, while Mr. Kraft has again to be thanked for seeing temporarily. We have come to regard him as our permanent switch from one secretary to another. (Applause).

The adoption of the report and accounts was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. Ritchie and carried.

Election of Officers.

On the motion of the Chairman Mr. K. M. Cumming was elected a life member of the Club in recognition of his past services.

The Chairman moved the election of the Hon. Mr. David Landale as Captain of the Club for the ensuing year, and this was unanimously carried.

The Hon. Mr. Landale in accepting the honour said that all sportsmen should pull together and he would endeavour to arrange matters at Happy Valley amicably between the Jockey and Golf Clubs. (Applause).

On the motion of the Chairman Mr. J. Bentley was unanimously elected Hon. Secretary, and the following committee was appointed:—

GOVERNMENT OFFICER DISCHARGED.

A Case for Medical, not Magisterial, Treatment.

The case was resumed at the Police Court this morning, before Mr. J. R. Wood, in which Albert J. Edwards, late accountant and store keeper of the Government Civil Hospital, was charged with embezzling the sum of \$500.

Mr. Longinotto said he had been instructed by the Government that they were advised that if defendant was sentenced to a term of imprisonment it would be prejudicial to his health. His condition needed more medical than magisterial treatment.

His Worship:—I understand that since March 6 he has been in a bad state of health.

Mr. Longinotto:—He has been in bad health for a long time, and this thing has undoubtedly preyed on his mind.

His Worship then informed defendant that he was discharged.

TRAMWAY RETURNS.

The following is the approximate statement of the Hongkong Tramway Company's traffic receipts for the week ending March 23rd, 1918:—

	Receipts for week.	Aggregate Receipts for 13 weeks.
This Year: ...	\$12,283	168,631
Last Year: ...	12,618	163,761
Increase: ...		2,270
Decrease: ...	335	

By Order, Messrs. S. H. Dodwell, E. J. Grist, Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Messrs. A. Ritchie, W. D. Kraft and F. H. Thomas.

Ladies' Accommodation at Fanling.

The question of improving the accommodation for ladies at Fanling was raised by Mr. John Macdonald.

Sir William Rees Davies suggested that the ladies' club house be used exclusively by the ladies for tiffin and teas on Sundays and public holidays and that on these days their gentleman friends should use the main club house for these purposes.

The Chairman welcomed the suggestions but said the principal difficulty in the way of extending the ladies' club house was the question of funds. He then took the opportunity of reminding members that there were 171 debentures at the Bank which he certainly thought members might take up and thus strengthen the Club's financial position.

Mr. G. M. Young, who was supported by Mr. H. Humphreys, thought the meeting was a favourable opportunity for canvassing members to take up the debentures, either outright or at \$10 per month; Mr. E. V. D. Parr proposed that for every debenture taken up by a single man two should be taken up by a married man. (Laughter).

Mr. E. A. Orapuell suggested that debenture holders should have the priority of claim over the tiffin tables. (Laughter).

As a result of the discussion application forms were circulated and met with a most gratifying response.

The Chairman in closing the discussion reminded members that the matter of the ladies' accommodation would have to be left to the incoming committee. He felt, if the final response was what he hoped it would be, that they would be in a position to carry into effect some of the extensions required.

The Championship.

Dr. Lindsay Wood submitted a resolution to the effect that the conditions governing the Championship should be altered, that instead of the Championship being decided by match play it should be decided on medal play and that the competition should be open to all golfers.

Mr. Kraft seconded. Mr. Balmer Johnson proposed as an amendment that the matter be left to the Committee as in former years.

Mr. E. E. Lindell seconded. Mr. Archbutt and Mr. Grist spoke in favour of the amendment and on a division the amendment was carried by an overwhelming majority. A vote of thanks to the Chairman was also passed.

The difficulty arose from con-
ceiving of the life to come in

and noble ideal worthy of God
and of the creature made in His
image. A common objection to
the hope of a future life is not an
objection to the Christian view of
it at all, but merely to the per-
petuation of mundane existence.
onlines not essentially nobler than
those all too commonly followed.
Men will tell you they have had
enough here and want no more
of it hereafter. Enough of what?
Three score years and ten are
certainly sufficient of the kind
of life which is all that
many appear to aim at.
But our Lord went on to show
that even in the ancient law there
was teaching about eternal life
for those who could discern it.
That the dead are raised even
Moses sheweth when he calleth
the Lord the God of Abraham

Vladivostok Service.
In view of the approaching return of spring, the Chinese Yusen Kaisha has decided to resume its Vladivostok steamer service, and despatched from Osaka on the 2nd inst. the s.s. Heijo Maru to the Siberian port. The s.s. Heian Maru follows her also from Osaka on the 9th.

For the forty-eight hours ending yesterday, 85 more cases were notified, of which 26 were from the City of Victoria. All the sufferers were Chinese, and there were 10 deaths.

Hongkong 26th March 1918.

TEL. NO. 135. Wine Merchants.
Hongkong.

CHILDREN'S BANQUET.

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

THE GREAT BATTLE IN FRANCE.

Fresh German Attacks.

The covering actions of brigades and divisions, fought with a view to securing orderly withdrawals, are magnificent episodes. Two battalions sustained flank fights until the object was attained. The battalions were reduced to seventy apiece. Enemy cavalry is reported in various places, but usually were only to screen parties. There is not yet any sign of German tanks, although picked men have been trained to operate them. The heaviest fighting has been on the flanks of the battle-front, the southern flank yielding the most ground. The withdrawal in the centre has been very slow and carried out in most places under the necessity of maintaining a good line.

The weather is still gloriously fine. Our airmen are bearing a most brilliant share in the struggle. Although tired the spirit of the troops defies all language of praise.

London, March 25.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: Fresh hostile attacks were made this morning in great strength on the whole front and continued all day. Southward of Peronne, after heavy fighting, the enemy crossed the Somme at certain points. These are being dealt with. The enemy's attacks northward of Peronne were of the greatest violence against the line of the Tortiller River. Our troops in this area have withdrawn fighting to a new position. Further northward we repulsed repeated assaults by large bodies, inflicting heavy losses. In this fighting the seventh and fortieth divisions greatly distinguished themselves, beating off many attacks.

A Canadian correspondent telegraphs that the greatest gas bombardment in the world's history was carried out by the Canadians on the night of March 22nd, against enemy positions between Lens and Hill 70. At eleven o'clock 8,000 drums were simultaneously released from the outskirts of Lens and favouring winds carried the gas to the enemy support, reserve and assembly areas. Nine minutes later the Canadian guns opened a slow bombardment which quickened in forty minutes to an intensive creeping barrage.

The Bombardment of Paris.

London, March 24.

Hitherto there is no explanation of the long range shelling of Paris, which is a mystery, as the nearest point on the front is usually regarded as sixty miles away.

A Paris message states that the long range German gun mentioned last evening is situated twelve kilometres beyond the French line and 120 kilometres from Paris.

Public Life Continues.

Paris, March 24.

The long range quarter-hourly bombardment of Paris recommenced at seven this morning, at a range of over 120 kilometres. There were a few casualties.

The Government has deemed despite the long range bombardments that public life, including the administrative public services, trains and trams will be continued as usual. Street gatherings are forbidden. To-day's bombardment is proceeding at eight-minute intervals. At 10.30 a.m. seventeen shells had fallen.

Later,

Twenty-four shells have been discharged in the bombardment called last night. It is alternatively theorized that the projectiles are mechanically constructed whereby they gather fresh force subsequently to their discharge from the gun, or an infinitely more powerful explosive is employed than hitherto known.

Nearly a Hundred German Divisions.

London, March 24.

A Paris semi-official message says that forty enemy divisions were identified in the first day's offensive. At present ninety-seven German divisions have been thrown in and others are continually coming in. Thus the forces on the western front are concentrating against the British.

The French Front.

London, March 25.

A French communique reports intermittent artillery activity at Chemin des Dames, occasionally violent duels in Champagne heights on the right of the Aisne between Courmies Wood and Bezonvaux and at Hartmanns Woeikopf.

The Aviation Operations.

London, March 25.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reporting on aviation says that 64 enemy aeroplanes were downed on Saturday on the battle-front.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reporting on aviation says: The weather was favourable on Saturday. Aeroplanes were constantly employed in reconnoitring, photography, bombing, and reporting targets to the artillery. Our pilots fired many thousands of rounds from a low height on hostile troops, masses in villages and in the open. Bombing was carried out continuously all day, over fourteen tons being dropped on billets, on high velocity guns and on rail-stations in the battle area. The enemy's low-fliers were most persistent in their attacks on our infantry in the forward areas. Many of these were brought down by our pilots. In all 29 hostile machines were brought down and 25 driven down out of control. We destroyed two balloons. Nine of ours are missing.

Several fires were started, one being of great size, the flames reaching a height of 200 feet and the smoke reaching 5,000 feet. The conflagration was visible for 35 miles. Thirty-two hostile machines attacked our bombers, and a fierce fight ensued. We brought down in flames an enemy machine and another was brought down in the centre of Mannheim. We also drove down five others uncontrollable. Despite severe combats and heavy gunfire all our machines returned except two.

SOUTH AFRICA AND DUTCH SHIPPING.

Cape Town, March 24.

In the House of Assembly Mr. Hartog attacked the Allies for taking over the Dutch ships and asked whether South Africa was a partner in this act.

General Botha pointed out that South Africa as a part of the Empire had to do its duty in helping to see the war through. South Africa had not been consulted but declined to express views, which might lead to further trouble. He emphasized that he certainly would not do anything to help Germany. (Cheers.)

GERMAN RAIDER CAPTURED.

Washington, March 24.

An American warship has brought to a Pacific port the sixty foot motor boat Agassiz, manned by a German crew. It is stated the vessel was operating as a raider in the Pacific and was capable of sinking any merchantman. She is alleged to have been fitted out on the west coast of Mexico.

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, March 25.

Silver is quoted at forty-six. There is continued scarcity and the market is firm.

YACHTING.

Royal Hongkong Yacht Club.

The eighth of the series of Club Championship races for the Handicap Class, One-Design Class, and Hayward Hays and Gael Class was sailed off on Saturday afternoon with the following results:—

Handicap Class.
Course:—Lyman Beacon (P), East Rock Buoy (P), Lyman Beacon (P). Distance:—10.1 miles.

Yacht	Heaps on Course	Finishing Time	Corrected Time
M. S. H.M.S. H.M.S.			
Dionosowes	2.31.57.01	5.19.32	
Rolls	Scratch	5.18.09	5.18.09
Jessica	1.41 D.N.S.		
Diana	5.03.54.16	5.37.12	
Colleen	7.34 D.N.S.		
Aileen	10.06 D.N.S.		

Position	Points for Race	Points to Date
(1) Rolls	7	36
(2) Diana	4	39
(3) Diana	5	38
— Jessica	—	—
— Colleen	—	—
— Aileen	—	18

One-Design Class.
Course:—Lyman Beacon (P), East Rock Buoy (P), Channel Rocks (P). Distance: 8.1 miles.

Yacht.	Heaps on by Course.	Finishing Time.	Corrected Time.
Ailas	Scratch	H.M.S. 5 27.58	H.M.S. 5 27 58
Bonita	"	D.N.S.	—
Daphne	"	5.23.48	5.23.46
Haleyon	"	5.24.01	5.24.01
Position.	Points for Race	Points to date	
(1) Daphne ...	5	32	
(2) Haleyon ...	3	19	
(3) Alias ...	2	27	
— Bonita	—	7	

Hayward Hays and Gael Class.
Course:—Lyman Beacon (P), East Rock Buoy (P), Channel Rocks (P). Distance: 8.1 miles.

Yacht	Heaps on Course	Finishing Time	Corrected Time
M. S. H.M.S. H.M.S.			
Lysbethowes	1.25.00.24	6.07.49	
Dawn	4.25.38.16	5.38.58	
Tourette	4.25.58.10	5.58.52	
Gael	4.2 D.N.F.		
Lady Ursula	6.04.17	6.04.17	
Dorothy	D.N.S.		
Asthore	4.2 D.N.S.		

Position	Points for Race	Points to Date
(1) Dawn	8	47
(2) Tourette	6	39
(3) Lady Ursula	5	32
(4) Lysbeth	4	43
— Dorothy	—	8
— Gael	—	37
— Asthore	—	13

The fourth of the Series of Cruiser Club Championship Races was sailed off on Sunday last, and resulted as under:—

Chinese Rig.
Course:—Bokhara Rock Buoy (P). Distance: 17 miles.

Yacht	Heaps on Course	Finishing Time	Corrected Time
M. S. H.M.S. H.M.S.			
Lady Jean	Scr. D.N.S.		
Onoma	5.49	2.31.05	2.25.25
Dorothy II	11.20	2.44.03	2.32.43
Niobe	11.20	2.30.44	2.19.24
Helen	11.20	N.N.S.	

Position	Pts. for Race	Pts. to Date
1. Lady Jane	6	10
2. Niobe	4	20
3. Onoma	3	17
4. Dorothy II	2	8
— Helen	—	—

English Rig.
Course:—Bokhara Rock Buoy (P). Distance: 17 miles.

Yacht	Heaps on Course	Finishing Time	Corrected Time
M. S. H.M.S. H.M.S.			
La Cigale	Scr. D.N.S.		
Vesper	22.40	2.05.30	1.42.59
Vera	23.20	2.07.33	1.39.13
Feathers	31.10	2.23.00	1.31.50
Irene	34.00	2.08.29	1.34.29
Mist	34.00	2.22.14	1.58.11
Queen Bee	D.N.S.		

Position	Points for Race	Points to Date
1. Feathers	8	19
2. Irene	6	23
3. Vera	5	22
4. Vesper	4	18
5. Mist	3	11
— La Cigale	—	3
— Queen Bee	—	—

KILLED IN ACTION.

Death of Former Hongkong Government Official.

We take the following from the *Catholic Herald* of January 19:—
“The death in action is announced of Cyril Francis Wogan Bowen Rowlands, previously reported missing, believed dead. He fought in the Imperial Yeomanry during the South African War, and was awarded the South African Medal. Subsequently he entered the Colonial Service, and obtained an appointment at Hongkong. From the outbreak of the present war he continually endeavoured to obtain permission to join the Army, but it was not till nearly the middle of 1917 that he was granted leave, and returned to England, where he at once joined the Artists' Rifles. He was 37 years of age, the youngest child of the late Mr. William Bowen Rowlands, K.O., for many years M.P. for Cardigan-shire, and Recorder of Swansea, and at the time of his death, Judge of County Courts on the Chester Circuit.”

The deceased's many friends in Hongkong will read this news with the deepest regret. Mr. Bowen Rowlands first came to the Colony in 1905, being appointed Assistant Secretary to the Sanitary Board, later being made Principal Clerk to the Sanitary Department. In the following year, he was Secretary to the Sanitary Department Commission and in 1907 was acting First Clerk at the Magistracy. He was appointed Secretary of the Sanitary Board in 1909, and held that position until he left Hongkong last year to join up.

LAWN TENNIS.

L.R.C. v. Wigwam.

The return match between teams composed of ladies of the Wigwam Tennis Club and the Ladies Recreation Club took place yesterday afternoon at the L.R.C. and proved a very enjoyable affair. In the first match, at Kowloon, the visitors were successful over the Wigwam Club by the narrow margin of three games and yesterday's event was also closely contested, the L.R.C. team again winning, this time by five games. Some extremely good play was seen and the winners had to strive hard for their victory.

The detailed scores of the visiting team were:—
Mrs. Blackburn and Mrs. Miller beat Mrs. Sandeman and Mrs. Jenkin, 6-5; lost to Mrs. Wakeman and Miss Wilkinson 5-6; lost to Mrs. Hancock and Mrs. Kent 4-7.

Mrs. Jeffries and Mrs. Parsons lost to Mrs. Sandeman and Mrs. Jenkin, 4-7; beat Mrs. Wakeman and Miss Wilkinson 7-5; lost to Mrs. Hancock and Mrs. Kent 4-7. Miss Neave and Miss M. Neave beat Mrs. Sandeman and Mrs. Jenkin 7-4; beat Mrs. Wakeman and Miss Wilkinson 6-5; lost to Mrs. Hancock and Mrs. Kent 4-7.

It will thus be seen that the total games scored read:—Ladies Recreation Club, 52; Wigwam Tennis Club, 47.

CANTON NEWS.

Our Canton correspondent writes as follows:—

A wholesale change of judicial officials is giving on in the various districts by order of the Generalissimo. Editors of some of the vernacular papers are among those appointed.

A military officer who is recruiting bandits in Shan Toi district was arrested by the magistrate but was released by order of the Tachun, in compliance with a request made by the Generalissimo.

The Interior Department of the Military Government has decided that all solicitors in future sent by the Peking Government must be identified by the Department and a license issued before they can practice in the local courts.

The Kan Lee, a towing cargo junk, plying between Canton and Hongkong was pirated on the 22nd outside the Boon Tigris fort by a gang of pirates who came on a steam launch. All the goods to the value over \$100,000, were removed.

RACECOURSE DISASTER.

Evidence Regarding Lack of Water Supply.

The enquiry into the sad catastrophe which occurred at the Racecourse, Happy Valley, on February 28, was continued at the Police Court this morning, being conducted by Mr. J. R. Wood, acting as Coroner. The following jurymen were also present:—Messrs. A. H. Barlow (foreman), J. H. Wallace, and W. C. Jack.

Mr. M. K. Lo appeared on behalf a number of Chinese who lost relatives in the disaster; Mr. F. B. L. Bowley represented the contractor, The Hok, who built the stands; Mr. D. V. Stevenson appeared for the lessee of the Unity Stand, Mr. G. H. Wakeman, Crown Solicitor, was also present.

Major Macdonald said he was Assistant Engineer in the Fire Brigade. He was present at the race at the time of the collapse. He was in the Gunners' Stand. He saw the collapse from this spot. A few seconds after the collapse he saw a thin white wisp of smoke and a few seconds after black smoke, followed by flames. He rushed down to the fire, afterwards going to the hydrant near the Golf Club. The pressure was not sufficient to reach any height. The pressure was not more than 30 lbs. This was not of any use. Later, the motor pump and engine arrived, hydrants then being turned on the tank. Even with these arrangements, they were not successful in getting any useful flow of water. He had been a member of the Hongkong Fire Brigade during the last 20 years. During that time he had had several experiences of matched fires, and it was his opinion that a matched which caught fire could only be saved if water was put on in the very first instant of the fire.

By Mr. Bowley.—His duties were to look after the machinery. He had no administrative duties in connection with the Fire Brigade. It was not part of his duty to consider the question of water supply as well as machinery. He knew at the time that these by drains were in a three-inch water main. It would be probable that one hose attached to one hydrant at one time would give a satisfactory jet of water. At the time the hoses were attached to the fire hydrant, it would have been impossible to play a jet from either of them into the main body of the fire because of the great heat.

By Mr. Stevenson.—He knew there were patent fire extinguishers in the Colony but he did not know if they were efficient. He did not think they would have been of any use in a matched fire. Mr. Stevenson suggested that it was a mistake to tap the five inch main, and witness replied that this would diminish the pressure of water from the other hydrants, but by that time the motor pump had arrived.

By Mr. Lo.—Even if hoses had been connected to the hydrants during the Races, in readiness for a fire, he did not think they could have done anything, because the water was insufficient. He had been to the Shanghai Races but he did not know whether it was a fact that a fire engine was in readiness to deal with any fire that might break out. It was possible that the branch sluice valve might have been shut down, thus reducing the pressure. He was not aware of there being any sluice valves on these pipes in the street. He did not know the location of the sluice valves. If any sluice valves did exist, then they should be controlled by the water authorities. He might say that at the fire he told Mr. Perkins that the pressure was very poor. He went and telephoned to the proper quarters and, returning, said the full pressure was on.

The evidence of Mr. McIvor, which was interrupted for that of Major Macdonald, was again resumed.

By Mr. Bowley.—He thought that the exits on the upper floor were insufficient. He agreed that people could get out in front if they were able-bodied. He walked round the shed on Monday the 26th and

they were then crowded. It certainly did occur to him then that the exits were insufficient to meet a panic. Although the thought occurred to him on Monday he did not take any steps to have the defect altered for Tuesday. No one reported it to him that there was electric light installed in the sheds. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade had control of the electric installations in the theatre. He did not know whether the water authorities maintained an extra pressure outside the City Hall during entertainments. He had put forward the opinion that from the attitude several people looked as though they had been crushed rather than burnt. He did not put this forward as a medical opinion, but he mentioned it to Dr. McFarlane and Dr. Thomas, and they agreed with him. The two detectives were employed in the gambling booths with his sanction. He would not have objected to P. W. D. clerks as lessees of the booths.

The question was raised yesterday by Mr. Bowley whether if bamboos were lashed in a certain way, they would offer resistance. This morning Mr. Bowley produced two sticks lashed together, and Mr. McIvor admitted that there was resistance, but it was infinitesimal and of no practical use. He was proceeding to demonstrate how easily he could break them when the Coroner made some remark, and Mr. McIvor replied that he had a \$10 bet on it, to be invested in War Bonds.

By Mr. Stevenson.—He knew there were fire extinguishers sold in the Colony, only he did not want to say anything about them as they were sold by certain people. In his opinion, a simple bucket of water was by far the best.

By Mr. Lo.—He would have been against shed No. 7 because there was only one stair upstairs. Hitherto theatrical matches had not been allowed with more than one storey.

The jury asked the following:—Did witness consider the police had a special duty to examine places which would be used by large crowds? Did he consider the police responsible for large crowds?

Mr. McIvor.—To a certain extent, yes. Though the thought did strike him on the Monday of the Races regarding the exits and fire, he did not think he would like to do anything. The sheds had been built from time immemorial and he would have thought a long time before stopping people from going in. He knew that there had been two recent fires, one at Hangchow Docks and the other at Cheung Sha Wan, but it did not strike him to take any extra precautions with regard to the matches at the Racecourse. He would say that the water supply was not sufficient to cope with an outbreak of fire if one occurred in the terrace of houses at the far end of the Racecourse. Regarding the houses at the bottom of Morrison Hill, he thought there would be sufficient supply.

After tiffin, evidence was given by Chief Inspector J. Kerr, who is also Assistant Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. He was on duty at the Racecourse at the time, standing by the main gate, and described what he saw. He detailed the police on the road to assist at the sheds. At the Club Lusitania there was a little panic, but he told the people to take matters steadily. He ran to the Civil Service Club, and telephoned to the Central Station, instructing all available assistance to be sent, as well as ambulances and dead-boxes. He was informed by Inspector Allen, of the Sanitary Department, that a message had been sent. He then learned that the sheds were on fire and telephoned to the Fire Brigade, asking for all possible assistance. On leaving the Club he saw Inspector Sim and others handling a hose attached to the fire hydrant at the Golf Club. They were trying to reach the flames. Inspector Gordon was raising the hose to the verandah of the Club by means of a twisted table cloth. He proceeded on to the road and saw some Chinese with a hose by the Club Lusitania. He returned to the Golf Club and saw an Indian Constable breaking a window to get stuff out of the Club House. Shortly afterwards he saw the fire engines

WENT DOWN WITH SHIP.

Steamer's Boats Would Not Hold all.

Ten of the crew of the British steamship Miguel de Larrinaga, of nearly 5,000 tons, perished in mid-ocean on February 6, when the vessel foundered. A cargo of grain bound for France went down with the ship.

A British warship rescued twenty-seven men, who had taken to small boats, and some of these survivors arrived here by rail today from a Newfoundland port.

The Larrinaga's captain, E. Williams; the chief officer, S. S. Mann; the second officer, a gunner, and six sailors sacrificed their lives because the small boats were not large enough to hold all on board. For forty hours Captain Williams and his companions, perched at the rail of their ship, half-overturned, fired rockets. These were observed by the British warship which earlier had responded to a S. O. S. call sent out when the Larrinaga's cargo had shifted and disaster was apparent. The warship, however, was unable to approach, owing to the high seas running, and when dawn came on February 6 the ship had vanished.

The Larrinaga left Newport News late in January. When twelve days out the cargo began to shift during a storm, and within a half-hour the vessel had partly capsized.

The Larrinaga, formerly a Spanish steamship, was in the service of the British Government.

Vicar For 60 Years.

The death has occurred of the Rev. C. O. Collins, who for over 60 years, was vicar of the City Church of St. Mary, Aldermanbury. He retired a few months ago, when the church was amalgamated with St. Alphage, London wall. St. Mary is famous as the burial place of Judge Jeffreys, and for its memorial to Hemynge and Condell, printers of the first folio of Shakespeare.

come along. That would be about ten minutes after he telephoned. Before this they could get very little water. Witness sent the engine to the next nearest hydrant, by the Police Club. The stand pipe was fixed and hose was paid out to the Golf Club. He had another length of hose laid from the hydrant at the top of Morrison Hill. Eventually they had three hoses emptying into a tank by the Golf Club. The motor pump could pump for a short time and then she would have to stop to allow the tank to fill up again. The water was running very slowly into the tank. Later he saw the steam engine by the Police Club and gave instructions for the section to be placed in the nullah by the side of the Club, but there was practically no water there. It was about four o'clock when the fire boat arrived at the Praya and it was not until then that they had sufficient water to cope with the fire.

By Mr. Wakeman.—Witness saw no signs of alarm before the collapse. There would be about fifty police on duty in the vicinity of the course. He heard a rumour after the fire broke out, that the matches had been tampered with by the lashing being out by robbers.

By Mr. Bowley.—Witness had been 28 years in the force. He had only been connected with matches for two years. On the first day of the Races this year he thought that the crowd in the sheds was rather less. There were more on Tuesday, but as compared with last year he thought there were fewer people. He had formed no estimate as to the number of people. He made the arrangements for the police and thought he had quite enough men there. He had no police on duty at the back of the sheds, and uniformed men did not patrol the sheds. Detectives usually mingled with the crowd. So long as there was no block in the traffic no check was placed on the number of people entering the matches enclosure. The enquiry is proceeding.

